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Evening Papers .. 9th November, 1938.

RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1938.

FOOD AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) "B" SERIES.

Index numbers for September quarter 1938 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 845, Toowoomba 814, Rockhampton 829, Townsville 905, Bundaberg 791, Charters Towers 756 and Warwick 754.

From June to September quarter 1938, there were increases in the "B" Series indexes for all seven Queensland cities, the percentage rises being Brisbane 1.32, Toowoomba 1.24, Rockhampton 0.36, Townsville 0.67, Bundaberg 1.41, Charters Towers 1.48, and Warwick 5.60. Food and grocery costs were higher in all cities and the rent index was higher in all cities but Charters Towers, where there was no movement. In Brisbane, the most important increases in price between the months of June and September were for potatoes, onions, cheese, bacon, beef, mutton, and pork. Bread, flour, and eggs were the chief decreases. The weighted average rent of four and five roomed houses in Brisbane rose from 225.48d. to 227.43d. between May and August.

Compared with September quarter, 1937, the percentage increases in the Food and Rent Indexes were Brisbane 3.17, Toowoomba 1.50, Rockhampton 3.11, Townsville 3.78, Bundaberg 5.33, Charters Towers 4.85, and Warwick 7.25. Food and groceries were dearer in all cities and rents increased in all cities but Toowoomba, where a slight decline was recorded. In Brisbane in September 1938 potatoes were practically double the price that they were a year earlier, while other rises included tea, butter, cheese, eggs, bacon, beef and mutton. Decreases included bread, flour and milk.

"ALL ITEMS" - "C" SERIES.

Index numbers for September quarter 1938 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 858, Toowoomba 846, Rockhampton 857, Townsville 905, Bundaberg 835, Charters Towers 843 and Warwick 813.

Percentage increases in the "C" Series index numbers between June and September quarter 1938 were Brisbane 0.94, Toowoomba 0.24, Rockhampton 0.35, Townsville 0.44, Bundaberg 0.24, Charters Towers 0.84, and Warwick 3.04. In Brisbane food and grocery costs increased 1.44 per cent., rent of four and five roomed houses 0.96 per cent, clothing and footwear 0.24 per cent, and miscellaneous items (consisting of household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, union dues, lodge dues, fares, newspapers etc.) 0.21 per cent. Clothing and footwear prices were practically unchanged in all cities, as were also household drapery and hardware. In the fuel and light section, there were rises in the gas prices in parts of the Brisbane area, and decreases in electricity charges in Toowoomba and Bundaberg. Firewood was slightly dearer, except in Townsville and Warwick.

Compared with September quarter, 1937, the "C" index rose in all cities, the percentage increases being Brisbane 2.75, Toowoomba 1.08, Rockhampton 2.27, Townsville 2.84, Bundaberg 3.21, Charters Towers 3.31, and Warwick 5.04. In Brisbane, food and grocery costs increased 3.54 per cent, rent 2.55 per cent, clothing and footwear 3.51 per cent and miscellaneous items 0.74 per cent. The clothing index was higher than a year earlier in all cities and the miscellaneous group index was higher in all cities except Toowoomba and Bundaberg where the decreases were largely due to the introduction of new electricity tariffs.

In September quarter, 1938, the Brisbane index was 14.86 per cent above that for March quarter, 1933, when the index was 747, - the lowest point reached in the depression years.

COMPARISON OF COSTS IN THE QUEENSLAND CITIES.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in September quarter 1938 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba ..	19. 9	19. 0	19.10	1. 0. 1
Rockhampton ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0.10	17. 8	1. 0. 5
Townsville ..	1. 1. 1	1. 2. 1	1. 0. 4	1. 0. 2
Bundaberg ..	19. 6	1. 1. 0	15. 2	1. 0. 3
Charters Towers ..	19. 8	1. 1.11	11. 8	1. 0. 6
Warwick ..	18.11	19. 5	15. 5	19.11

COMPARISON OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATES BASIC WAGES.

In the following statement the present State Basic Wage of £4. 1. 0 in Brisbane is compared in the first column with the amounts required to purchase the same amount of commodities in the other capitals. The second column shows the actual State Basic wages and the third the actual Commonwealth Basic wages in the capitals. All comparisons are on the basis of September quarter 1938 index numbers.

Capital	Equivalent of £4. 1. 0 in Brisbane a.	State Basic Wage b.	Commonwealth Basic Wage c.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	4. 1. 0	4. 1. 0	3.15. 0
Sydney ..	4. 7. 2	d.	4. 1. 0
Melbourne ..	4. 5. 5	e.	3.19. 0
Adelaide ..	4. 4. 4	5.14. 0	3.16. 0
Perth ..	4. 3. 8	4. 1. 1	3.16. 0
Hobart ..	4. 3. 7	e.	3.16. 0

- a. Based on "All Items" index "C" Series.
- b. Current Rates.
- c. Corresponding to September quarter "court" index numbers with the addition of the special loadings. To be operative from beginning of first pay period in December.
- d. The Basic Wage of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is adopted in State awards.
- e. No State wage actually declared but follows Commonwealth rates to a large extent.

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
BRISBANE.

7th November, 1938.

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

Table No. 1. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals)

TOWN	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending Decr. 1937	Year Ending Sept. 1938	QUARTERS ENDING				
				Sept. 1937	Decr. 1937	March 1938	June 1938	Sept. 1938
Brisbane	..	901	824	835	819	829	832	834
Toowoomba	..	833	810	806	802	802	804	814
Rockhampton	..	858	808	822	804	814	820	826
Townsville	..	1047	877	894	872	882	891	899
Bundaberg	..	(b)	752	773	751	753	766	780
Weighted Average -								
Five Towns (a)		892	823	834	818	827	831	834
Charters Towers	..	942	727	741	721	725	738	745
Warwick	..	841	707	720	703	708	703	714
								754

Table No. 2.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals)

TOWN	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending Decr. 1937	Year Ending Sept. 1938	QUARTERS ENDING				
				Sept. 1937	Decr. 1937	March 1938	June 1938	Sept. 1938
Brisbane	..	917	837	850	835	844	846	850
Toowoomba	..	906	840	843	837	839	841	844
Rockhampton	..	903	840	852	838	846	849	854
Townsville	..	1023	883	898	880	890	895	901
Bundaberg	..	(b)	809	826	809	813	821	833
Weighted Average -								
Five Towns (a)		915	840	852	838	846	849	853
Charters Towers		925	819	833	816	822	829	836
Warwick	..	914	779	791	774	783	780	789
								813

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September Quarter 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity	MONTH OF			Commodity and Unit of Quantity	MONTH OF		
	Sept. 1937	June 1938	Sept. 1938		Sept. 1937	June 1938	Sept. 1938
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread	..	2 lb.	5.48	5.25	5.00	Cheese	.. 1 lb.
Flour	..	2 lb.	4.14	3.50	3.23	Eggs	.. 1 doz.
Tea	..	1 lb.	25.86	27.05	27.05	Milk	1 quart
Sugar	..	1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Bacon (Rashers)	1 lb.
Jam (Plum)	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	7.91	8.02	7.95	Beef - Sirloin	
Raisins	..	1 lb.	10.14	10.27	10.50	Roast	.. 1 lb.
Potatoes	..	7 lb.	7.55	10.23	14.73	Beef - Steak	
Onions	..	1 lb.	2.14	1.66	2.04	Rump	.. 1 lb.
Soap	..	1 lb.	6.36	6.33	6.24	Beef - Rolled	
Butter	..	1 lb.	18.05	19.00	19.00	Brisket	.. 1 lb.
						Mutton - Leg	1 lb.
						Mutton - Chops	
						Loin	.. 1 lb.
						Pork - Leg	1 lb.